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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

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DATE DISTR. 26 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Bulgarian Communist Cell in Caracas

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Venezuelan police are closely watching the activities of a Bulgarian Communist cell which has been established in Caracas. The members of this cell meet at the residence of Encho Dimitrov, a Bulgarian who has lived in Venezuela for many years and who owns a small hardware shop in the Plaza Capuchinos.
2. The only known members of this cell are the following:
 - a. Ari Bakalov, the founder of the cell. Bakalov, whose only known occupation was the sale of antiques and pornographic pictures, was apprehended by the police in late March and held for questioning. The police searched his home but found nothing incriminating. Because he was known to have sent large sums of money to his mother in Europe, the police gave him eight days to explain how he obtained his money. On 12 April 1949 an order of expulsion was issued, based on the fact that the police considered him an undesirable alien.
 - b. Encho Dimitrov, secretary of the cell. Dimitrov has a long history of Communist activities both in Venezuela and in Bulgaria. He reportedly visited Sofia two years ago at which time he conferred with many Communist government leaders.
 - c. Ivan Marinov, recently arrived from Paris. Marinov was reportedly Bulgarian Minister to France in 1946-47.
 - d. (Fnu) Enchev, a recent arrival from Paris.* Enchev, as an employee of the Bulgarian Foreign Office, at one time held a diplomatic post in Switzerland.

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Comment. An Ivan Enchev was at one time Bulgarian First Secretary
to Rome and Paris.

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